

Remarks

Claims 1-29 are presently pending in the application.


This Preliminary Amendment is presented to correct minor informalities in the claims and specification.

Any claim amendment made in this Preliminary Amendment was made to clarify the claims, consistent with maintaining the maximum scope of the claims prior to this Amendment.

The Applicants await receipt of the first Office Action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 18, 2001



Darin E. Bartholomew
Registration No. 36,444
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS, HOFER, GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

Appendix A

1. A system for providing electronic security for an internal resource communicating via an external communications network, the system comprising:
 - a server having a first set of ports for communication between the external communications network and the server; the server having a second set of ports for communication between an internal communications network and the server;
 - a first firewall in communication with the first set of ports and interposed to provide at least one interconnection between the first set of ports and the external communications network; and
 - a second firewall in communication with the second set of ports and interposed to provide a nonnegative integer number of interconnections between the first set of ports and the internal communications network.
2. The system according to claim 1 wherein the first firewall has outer ports and the second firewall has inner ports, the outer ports of the first firewall having different port identifiers than the inner ports of the second firewall such that a progression of an unauthorized incoming data message that traverses an interconnection via one of the outer ports of the first firewall is blocked at the inner ports of the second firewall.